Distr.: General
9 June 1999

Original: English

THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Vienna
19-30 July 1999

Abstract of the national paper of Canada

1. Canada has a proud history in space. In 1962, Canada became the third country in space with the launch of Alouette-1. In 1972, Canada became the first nation to have a domestic, commercial geostationary telecommunications satellite system and, in 1976, the first to use direct broadcast satellite television. Having developed the Space Shuttle's Canadarm during the 1980s and the International Space Station's Mobile Servicing System during the 1990s, Canada has become the world's leader in space robotics. With the 1995 launch of RADARSAT-1, Canada developed the world's first and most advanced commercial radar remote sensing satellite system. And Canada has a large and experienced astronaut corps and undertakes world-class space science research and space technology development.

2. In all this and much more, Canada has pursued a bold and balanced vision of space. The dual objectives of the Canadian Space Program are (a) to develop and apply space science and technology to meet Canadian needs, maximizing the practical benefits Canadians derive from space-based products and services, and (b) to foster the development of an internationally competitive space industry and thereby contribute to Canadian prosperity.

3. The Canadian Space Program pursues these objectives by:

(a) Strategically targeting Canadian space investments towards niche sectors and capabilities in areas such as space robotics and automation, radar remote sensing and advanced satellite communications, which maximize industrial return and the public good and in which Canada can maintain a global lead;

(b) Working through innovative partnerships with the private sector as part of an industrial commercialization strategy that appropriately balances the roles of the public and private sectors;

(c) Structuring Canadian programmes around cooperative international partnerships and creating synergies between Canada's space investments and those of other countries;

(d) Fostering excellence and creativity within our scientific community to advance knowledge for the benefit of all Canadians;

(e) Promoting scientific literacy among Canada's youth and supporting a science and technology culture in Canada through a national communications and space awareness programme.

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4. Canada's future in space will be equally proud. Building on the achievements of the past, the Canadian Space Program has recently been organized around five areas: Earth and Environment, Space Science, Human Presence in Space, Satellite Communications, and Space Technologies. The new space programme will expand Canadian capabilities in niche areas of remote sensing (through follow-on RADARSATs and applications development), space robotics (e.g. through planetary robotics missions), satellite communications (through advanced communication technologies) and space science (through a number of ground-breaking programmes). The new plan will extend further Canada's space partnerships between government and industry and between Canada and its international space partners. And it will lay the groundwork for ever greater advances in space science and ever greater use of space technology and applications for the benefit of Canadians and humanity in general.